

# Culpeper Wood Preserves, Inc.

## EPA Region 3

Virginia

Culpeper County

Catalpa District

on the outskirts of

Culpeper

**EPA ID#** VAD059165282 **Last Update:**  
August 2002

**7th** Congressional District

**Other Names:** None

## Current Site Status

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Commonwealth of Virginia in 1981 required that Culpeper Wood Preservers, Inc., the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP), improve site conditions to control contaminated runoff which included removing a portion of contaminated soil, constructing newly covered drip pads, and reconstructing the waste impoundment. In addition, 20-foot trenches were dug downgradient from the impoundments to catch leachate.

In 1993, Culpeper Wood Preservers entered into a Consent Order with EPA to conduct a site-wide study to determine the extent of contamination and to identify alternative technologies for the cleanup at the site. Upon completion of the study, EPA will select a final cleanup remedy for the site, with design of the selected remedy slated to start soon thereafter.

# Site Description

The Culpeper Wood Preservers site, located in Culpeper County, Virginia, is an active 20-acre wood treatment facility that uses a chromated copper arsenate (CCA) waterborne treating process. Early on in the plant's operation, pressure-treated lumber was placed on an uncovered drip pad. As the lumber dried, CCA-contaminated drippings dropped directly to the ground. In early 1981, approximately 100,000 gallons of CCA-contaminated wastewater were released from an unlined, on-site waste impoundment, contaminating neighboring surface waters. In January 1982, the Virginia State Water Control Board (SWCB) determined that the groundwater had become contaminated with arsenic and chromium from the wood treatment processes. Over 40 residences located within 2,000 feet of the site rely on groundwater for their drinking water supplies.

## Site Responsibility

Cleanup of this site is the responsibility of Federal and State governments, the site owner, and parties potentially responsible for site contamination.


## NPL Listing History

This site was proposed to the National Priorities List of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites requiring long-term remedial action on October 15, 1984. The site was formally added to the list June 10, 1986, making it eligible for federal cleanup funds.

# Threats and Contaminants

The groundwater on site is contaminated with arsenic and chromium from the wood-treatment processes, according to the analyses conducted by the SWCB. Contaminated soil containing chromium, copper, and arsenic was removed from the site in 1983. However, some soil contamination may still remain. Wastewater containing CCA has contaminated neighboring surface waters. Potential risks exist for individuals who drink contaminated groundwater or surface water. The SWCB determined in 1986 that homeowner wells were not contaminated. An unnamed tributary that lies 750 yards northeast of the site and extends approximately three miles before entering Jonas Run potentially could be contaminated. Contaminated groundwater or

surface water also may affect recreation and fishing.

Contaminant descriptions and associated risk factors are available on the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry, an arm of the CDC, web site at <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov/hazdat.html> 

## Cleanup Progress

## Contacts

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The detailed Administrative Record can be examined at the following locations:

Culpeper Town and County Library  
605 S. Main Street  
Culpeper, VA 22701

U.S. EPA Region III  
6th Floor Docket Room  
1650 Arch Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19103  
215-814-3157